

Aviation Command and Control Transformation



The Marine Air Control Group provides the Aviation Combat Element commander with the Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS) agencies necessary to exercise command and control of aviation assets in support of MAGTF, naval, and joint operations. These agencies provide the ability to plan, direct, and supervise the application of the six functions of Marine Aviation.

The MACCS is modernizing to improve the expeditionary air command and control (C2), sensor, and weapons capabilities that it will provide between FY 2006 and FY 2015. The key thrusts of this modernization effort include expeditionary packaging, modern information technology, and joint integration.

In conjunction with equipment modernization, Marine Aviation C2 is also preparing for a transformational convergence of new capabilities, organizations, doctrine, training, and personnel to support expeditionary maneuver warfare and the massing of combat effects by dispersed and distributed naval, joint, and coalition assets. That convergence is managed and guided by the Aviation C2 Transformation Task Force (TTF).

AVIATION C2 TRANSFORMATION TASK FORCE

The deputy commandants for Aviation and Combat Development chartered the Aviation C2 TTF in November 2002 to ensure the effective introduction of

the Aviation C2 family of systems (FoS) into the operating forces. The Marine Corps has programmed the FoS fielding between FY 2006 and FY 2017. The cornerstone of the Aviation C2 FoS, the Common Aviation C2 System (CAC2S), will reach Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in FY 2008. Next, networked ground-based sensors and unmanned aerial vehicles are scheduled to reach IOC between FY 2008 and FY 2011. The TTF provides a proactive mechanism for headquarters Marine Corps advocates, expeditionary force development organizations, acquisition commands, supporting establishment activities, and operating forces to formulate and implement changes to the Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF). The TTF's membership comprises operating force and supporting establishment stakeholders in the transformation process.

MACCS-X

To support testing and combat development of future Aviation C2, the Marine Corps established the MACCS-X Operational Development Team (ODT) in July 2005. The mission of the MACCS-X ODT is to provide developmental and operational test support, evaluate the concept of employment for the transformation of the MACCS, and to validate DOTMLPF concepts and recommendations.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

During FY 2006, the TTF will complete the Functional Concept for Aviation C2 that will articulate the Marine Corps' vision for Aviation C2 in the 2015-2020 period and will guide the transformation of the legacy MACCS into the capabilities of the future Aviation C2 FoS. The concept will draw upon and contribute to other future or emerging Marine Corps, naval and joint concepts, such as expeditionary maneuver warfare, distributed operations, Seabasing, FORCENet, and network centric warfare.

FY 2006 TRANSFORMATION EVALUATION

During FY 2006 the TTF will supervise, and the MACCS-X ODT will support, the planning and execution of a transformation evaluation. The transformation evaluation will be comprised of a series of four events to validate transformation spiral one DOTMLPF changes that are proposed for implementation in early FY 2008. Proposed DOTMLPF changes include reorganization of current functional MACCS units into cross-functional units, tactical employment of multi-function Aviation C2 agencies, and the development of common aviation C2 operations and maintenance personnel.